

(323) 881-2401

July 15, 2002

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: P. MICHAEL FREEMAN

FOURTH OF JULY ACTIVITY REPORT

This report includes actions that were taken by this Department to mitigate the anticipated additional emergency activity during the Fourth of July 2002 holiday. Also included is a summary of fireworks-related emergency responses, property losses, and the number of injuries.

AUGMENTED STAFFING

The following resources were staffed by this Department on July 4, 2002:

- Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Teams were designated.
- Water Tenders 32, 44, 70, 80, 117, 129 and 144 for 24 hours.
- All 16 unstaffed patrols for 24 hours.
- Helitenders at Fire Station 87 and the Pacoima Warehouse 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- An additional fire ship at Camp 9 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. for a total of three air squads and two fire ships.
- Twenty ground crews with 10 superintendents for 24 hours.
- Four dozers staffed and staged at Fire Stations 64, 125, 129 and Camp 12 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- One dozer staffed at the Pacoima Warehouse for 24 hours.
- Safety Patrols in Battalions 5, 6, 10, 11, and 16 from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

LIFEGUARD DIVISION

- Assigned 1 additional paramedic to the Catalina Isthmus on July 3 and 4, 2002 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Extended staffing hours for all 7 boats from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. for beach patrol and permitted firework display coverage.
- Section headquarters augmented staffing during evening hours.
- Staffed Dive Team #1 on July 3 and 4, 2002 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND MEDIA ACTIVITIES

Special emphasis was placed once again on warning the public of the dangers associated with the use of fireworks. The public was encouraged to attend a professional fireworks display instead of using private home-use fireworks. The following is a list of the campaign highlights for 2002:

- Conducted the Tenth Annual “Junior Fire Chief for a Day Poster Contest” with the theme of “Go See a Professional Fireworks Show.” All elementary schools within the County of Los Angeles were invited to participate and over 1,200 posters were submitted.
- A press conference was held on June 28, 2002 to announce the winners for the “Junior Fire Chief for a Day Poster Contest” and to award each winner with over \$1,000 in prizes.
- Provided July 4th safety messages to all Los Angeles media during a press conference on June 28, 2002.
- Provided July 4th safety messages to several Los Angeles area television stations before July 4, 2002.
- Provided studio interviews on July 4th safety to several Los Angeles area radio stations before July 4, 2002.
- On June 25, 2002, the Professional Fireworks Show Hotline (888-654-FIRE) was placed in operation to provide information in English and Spanish on the locations of professional fireworks shows.
- On June 26, 2002, two web sites, www.lacofd.org and www.safeJuly4th.org were placed in operation to provide information about the locations of professional fireworks shows.

FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

- Provided fireworks safety information to all fire stations for distribution to the public.
- Approved and supervised 48 public fireworks displays with a Fire Safety Officer (FSO) at each location.
- Staffed the Communications Center with Fire Prevention personnel to support the fireworks enforcement and confiscation activity of fire units and police agencies.
- The Arson/Fire Investigation Unit assisted several law and fire agencies in the arrest of 4 individuals and the confiscation of approximately 25,000 pounds of illegal fireworks.

OPERATIONS – EMERGENCY ACTIVITY REPORT

The Department received 1,970 telephone calls and dispatched 1,036 incidents. Emergency operations continued despite an interruption in our Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system as reported to the Board in our July 10, 2002 report. The following information indicates the fireworks-related activities that took place during the 24-hour period from 7 a.m. on July 4 to 7 a.m. on July 5, 2002. For comparison, the 2001 statistics have also been included:

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

	2001	2002
Structures	3	5
Miscellaneous	38	13
Grass/Brush Fires	13	6
Injuries	7	5
Total	61	29

DOLLAR/ACREAGE LOSS

	2001	2002
Structures/Contents	\$42,000	\$97,200
Miscellaneous Property	\$4,235	\$11,350
Grass/Brush	20.33 Acres	4.22 Acres
Total	\$46,235	\$108,550

CONCLUSION

There was a decrease in the number of fireworks related incidents from 61 in 2001 to 29 in 2002. Despite this decrease, the dollar loss was up from \$46,235 in 2001 to \$108,550 in 2002, apparently due to higher dollar loss for the specific incidents this year. Injuries remained approximately the same. The Department will be forwarding to the Board a more comprehensive report during the month of August that covers a 30-day reporting period of June 17 to July 16, 2002. This 30-day report is a more accurate reflection of actual trends in fireworks-related incidents than the 24-hour figures contained in this report.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

PMF:fm

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